

## **Civic Association Annual Meeting Minutes January 27, 2025**

**Attendance:** 79 neighborhood residents attended

**Call to Order, John Pray** (Civic Board President)  
Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

**Opening Prayer, Steve Foster** (Community Bible Church)

### **Civic Association Reports:**

- **John Pray (President)**

John introduced the current board members and their responsibilities: Steve Foster (VP, Secretary, Phone Tree), Darren & Aimee Rasche (Welcome & Publicity), Rick Martin (Newsletter & Social), Steve Long (Treasurer), Alicia Elam (Public Works), and Roy Hill.

John presented Lynda Butler, Beau Dennis, and Sydney Andre as potential board members. The motion was seconded by David Carnes. **They were unanimously approved.**

John mentioned several projects from 2024—new sign on Drusilla and the beautification of Chelsea Blvd. John has submitted several requests for the city to fix some of the potholes in our neighborhood. He has talked to Kelly Surface, Laurie Adam's secretary. He is hoping the new city of St George may respond to these needs much quicker.

Several group homes operate in the neighborhood—4266 Drusilla, 4238 Fleet, and VOA House (S. Maiden). There is not much that we can do to stop group homes since they are federally protected. There is also a home at 4440 Fleet that seems to operate as a group home.

### **Jefferson Highway Repair Project**

- **Brendan Rush**

Brendan is a W-PP neighbor who works with the LA DOTD. The work on the outside lane of Jefferson Hwy in front of W-PP has now started. They are doing the same process that they did for the inside lanes. It is a lot more meticulous since they have to tie in driveways and fix curbs as they go. It is estimated that they will be done in late April. As they come to each road, they will have to shut down some of the entrance/exit points in W-PP. They will return a year later to finish the outside lane on the other side of Jefferson Hwy. The final part of the project will be another layer on top of the whole surface which will make the highway extremely smooth.

### **Crime Prevention Board Reports**

- **David Carnes (President)**

Board members also include John Pray, Larry Johnson, Drew Merrill, and Roy Hill. The Crime Prevention district started in 2010. This was renewed for 10 years in 2020.

- **Larry Johnson (Treasurer)**

Larry presented the 2024 financial report. Finances are submitted to the legislature in accordance with state law. See attached.

There are 585 properties in W-PP which pay the \$125/100 parcel fee. 2024 funds were \$72,520. 80% of the received funds are used for crime prevention. 20% of the funds are used for neighborhood beautification. Each year we generally spend about \$9000 less than we receive. The current CPB balance is \$88,765 which is enough to cover one year's expenses. The CPB pays lawn maintenance for the FEMA lots since the city will only cut them every month or six months. Lawn maintenance is \$9620 for the year to maintain 18 FEMA lots.

- **Laurie White Adams (BR Councilmember)**

Laurie currently represents about 40% of those who are in Baton Rouge and 60% of those who are in St. George. Laurie is not sure what it will look like in the future. This is a new process with such a huge political change with a new city. The new mayor-president, Sid Edwards, has hit the ground running and it seems like he is going to be a good leader for the city and parish.

- **Dustin Yates (Interim Mayor of St George)**

Dustin introduced himself. He has been with the St George Fire Dept. for 19 years. Previously he was a teacher and coach in the area. He is the interim mayor of the new city of St George. Last May and June, the governor appointed the leaders of the St George city. So far they have adopted new ordinances and used a demographer to separate the city into five districts. The St George council will consist of seven members with one person from each district and two at-large members. As of October 2024, the city has organized all the new councils and committees needed for the city functioning. At the last election in December, 80% agreed to transfer current tax revenue from Baton Rouge to St George. Beginning April 1, 2025, this tax revenue will start coming to St George. The Home Rule Charter of St George will be presented in March 2025 for a vote. On March 29, there will also be a vote for council members, mayor, and chief of police.

- **Drew Murrell (Attorney & Spokesperson for St George)**

Drew lives in our neighborhood and thinks that we have a great neighborhood. The goal of St George is to provide the same kind of community feel that we have in W-PP. The city will put a priority on drainage, fixing roads, cleaning up litter, and dealing with crime.

- **Capt. Chad Jones (EBR Sheriff)**

There are few incidents of crime in W-PP. The biggest theft in W-PP this past year was a lawnmower. We also had a few bikes stolen and some cars rummaged through. There were 250 calls for service in our neighborhood. 100 were false alarms or hang ups. W-PP installed four Flock cameras at the entrance of the neighborhood. It keeps a record of those who drive in W-PP. A neighbor asked about some of the "group homes" that are on Jefferson Hwy on the outside of W-PP. Many of these homes are owned by Patrick McCarron. He owns eight homes in W-PP. These homes are consistently a problem. They are boarding houses. Hopefully the city of St George can put "some teeth" into the ordinances to prevent these homes.

- **Josh Hoffpauir (St George, Home Rule Charter Committee)**

Go to [stgeorgela.gov](http://stgeorgela.gov) to read the Home Rule Charter. This will be voted on on March 29, 2025.

- **Todd Morris (Interim St George Police Chief)**

Todd addressed the Patrick McCarron situation. It is important to have ordinances that deal with some of these issues. It is a unique issue. One of the ways to deal with this issue is to have some

kind of nuisance ordinance that can address certain ongoing problems with specific homes that keep tying up social services and creating problems in the city.

### **Questions from the Floor**

- What are the plans for schools? There will be some motion this year but it will take a little while before there will be any specific changes. All parties involved in this process are working together to make a smooth transition but many questions can't be answered now. The process took approximately two years in Central but that's a rough estimate.
- Where will the city offices be located? If you know of any place to lease, then let us know! Right now we are using temporary offices at the fire station.
- Will St George try to bring back some of the areas that annexed to Baton Rouge? There is pending legislation to deal with this issue.
- Who are responsible for the sidewalks in W-PP? Homeowners are responsible.
- What do you do about street lights that are out? Report it at Entergy Louisiana.
- How many accidents have happened with some of the speeding in W-PP? There were two accidents in the neighborhood, one with injury. There were many close calls.
- Several asked about speed bumps—some in support, some against. Speeding tickets have been issued but only speed bumps slow people down. Someone suggested “speed humps.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Minutes submitted by Steve Foster